



MARVEL

3

STAR WARS

HIDDEN EMPIRE



**CRIMSON DAWN'S
LAST STAND?**

**SOULE
CUMMINGS
OLAZABA
GURU-eFX**

STAR WARS

HIDDEN EMPIRE

PART 3

"I AM CHANATH CHA"

DREAMING OF A FREER GALAXY, LADY QI'RA AND HER ORGANIZATION, CRIMSON DAWN, HAVE WAGED A SECRET WAR AGAINST THE EMPIRE. QI'RA ACTIVATED OPERATIVES ACROSS THE GALAXY TO CAUSE HAVOC AND DISTRACT THE EMPEROR WHILE SHE SOUGHT A POWER CAPABLE OF DEPOSING THE SITH LORD.

QI'RA LEARNED THE MEANS OF PREVAILING AGAINST THE SITH FROM HER PREDECESSOR, MAUL. HIS TEACHINGS LED HER TO THE FERMATA CAGE, AN ARTIFACT THAT SEALED AWAY AN ANCIENT SITH LORD SUSPENDED IN TIME. QI'RA TASKED THE ARCHIVIST WITH FREEING THIS SITH TO SERVE AS A WEAPON AGAINST THE EMPEROR.

AWARE OF QI'RA'S SCHEMES, THE EMPEROR DESTROYED HER FLAGSHIP, THE *VERMILLION*. THIS FORCED QI'RA TO ESCAPE TO HER STRONGHOLD, DAWN FALL, WHERE A CRIMSON DAWN FLEET PREPARES TO STRIKE AGAINST THE EMPIRE.

JOINED BY KHO PHON FARRUS, THE ARCHIVIST'S WORK ON THE FERMATA CAGE REMAINS THE KEY TO QI'RA'S PLAN. THE DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE THE ARTIFACT PRODUCES SERVED AS A BEACON TO QI'RA'S ENEMIES AND A HASTY SECOND ATTEMPT AT USING IT GUIDED DARTH VADER TO ITS LOCATION. CHANATH CHA AND THE ORPHANS ARRIVED TO DEFEND THE FERMATA CAGE, BUT DARTH VADER FEARS NO OPPONENT....

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I HAD THE MISFORTUNE TO BE NEAR **DARTH VADER** MORE THAN ONCE.

HE RADIATES A PARTICULAR, DARK ENERGY. BUT HE IS ALSO **OTHER**, LIKE WHATEVER DRIVES HIM IS COMPLETELY REMOVED FROM MOTIVATIONS EXPERIENCED BY OTHER BEINGS.

DO YOU KNOW THE FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU HEAR A STORY ABOUT AN ANIMAL **EATING ITS OWN YOUNG**?

THAT'S WHAT BEING IN **DARTH VADER'S** PRESENCE FELT LIKE TO ME.

EATING HIS OWN YOUNG.

HUH.

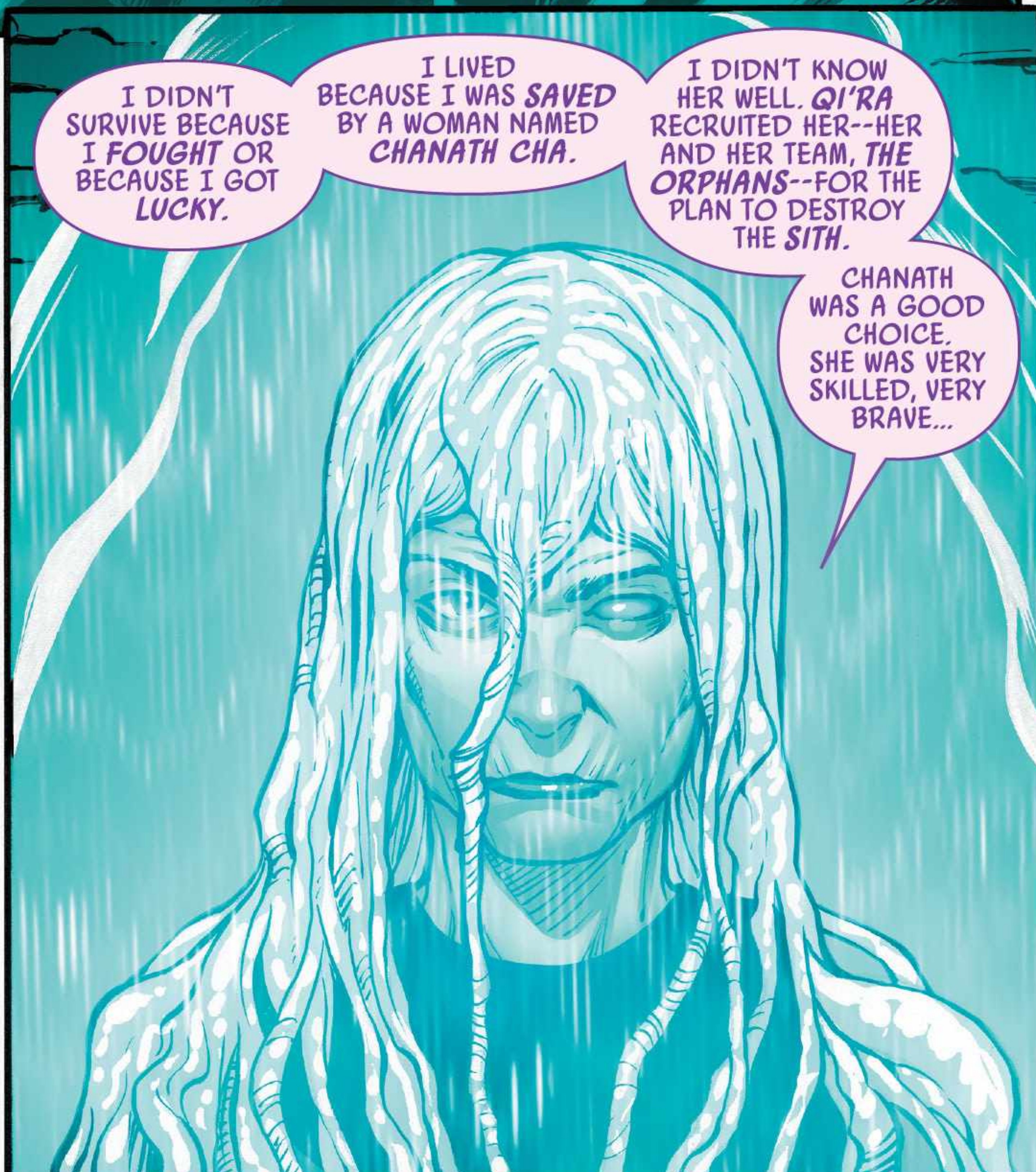


THE FIRST TIME I SAW **VADER** WAS WHEN HE CAME TO KILL ME.

HE FAILED. I THINK THAT WAS RARE FOR HIM.

AS A GENERAL RULE, WHEN **DARTH VADER** TRIED TO KILL SOMETHING...

...IT DIED.



I DIDN'T SURVIVE BECAUSE I **FOUGHT** OR BECAUSE I GOT **LUCKY**.

I LIVED BECAUSE I WAS **SAVED** BY A WOMAN NAMED **CHANATH CHA**.

I DIDN'T KNOW HER WELL. **QI'RA** RECRUITED HER--HER AND HER TEAM, **THE ORPHANS**--FOR THE PLAN TO DESTROY **THE SITH**.

CHANATH WAS A GOOD CHOICE. SHE WAS VERY SKILLED, VERY BRAVE...



"...AND SHE *HATED* DARTH VADER."

DO YOU REMEMBER *CABARRIA*, VADER? TWO DECADES AGO, ON A LONELY STRETCH OF SKYWAY.

A FAMILY. A MAN, A WOMAN AND A GIRL OF 12.



YOU KILLED MY MOTHER. HER NAME WAS *RAMAT CHA*. YOU KILLED MY FATHER. HIS NAME WAS *BHADA CHA*.

MY NAME IS CHANATH CHA, AND THAT DAY, I VOWED TO END YOUR LIFE.

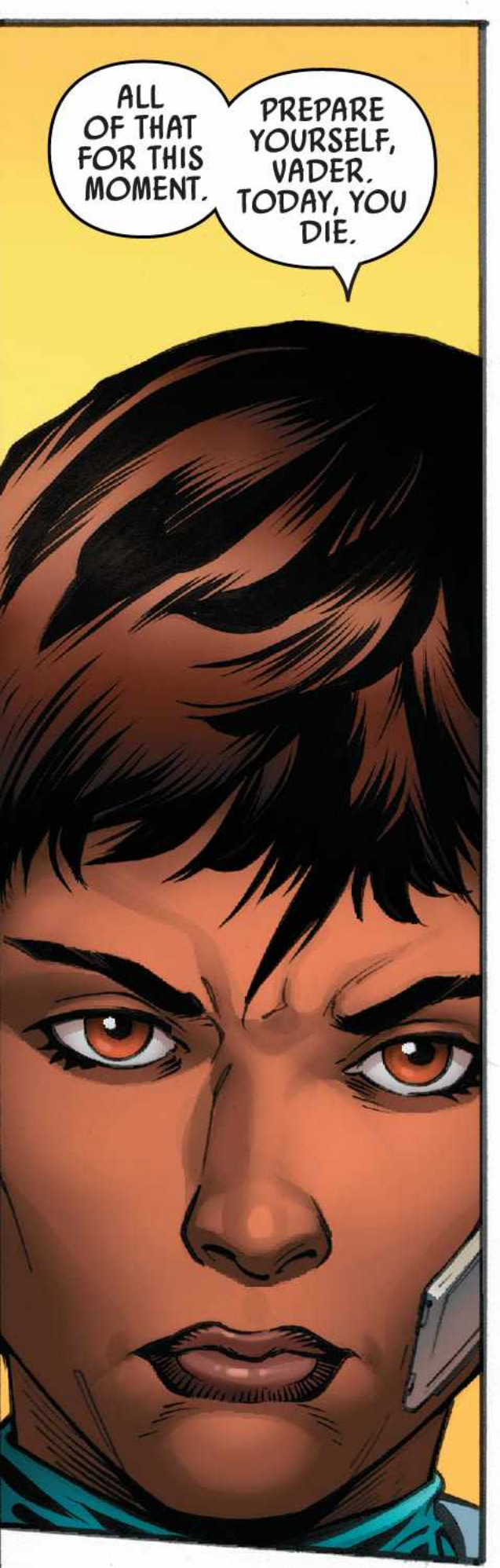


I STUDIED EVERY REPORT, SPOKE TO EVERYONE WHO HAD EVER SEEN YOU FIGHT.

I LEARNED ABOUT YOUR ABILITIES AND TRAINED TO COUNTER THEM.

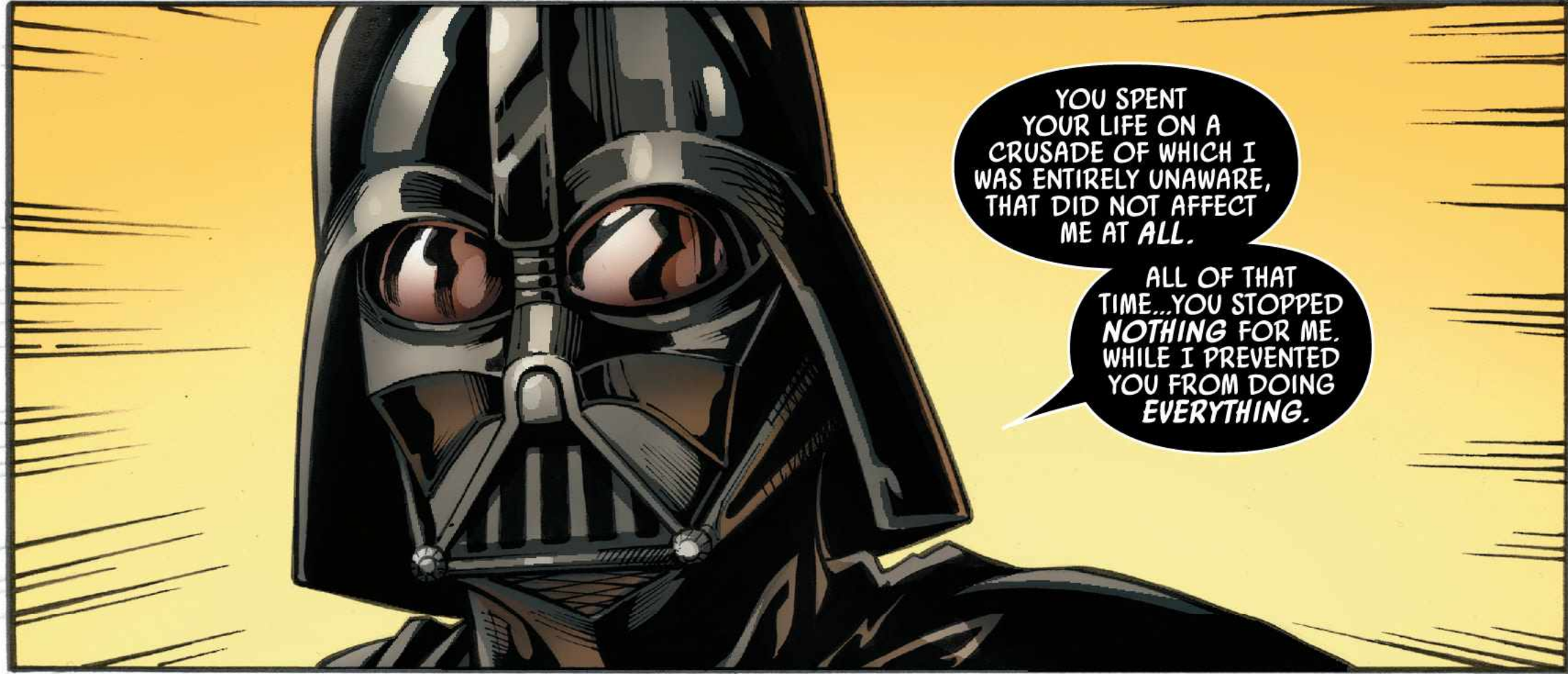
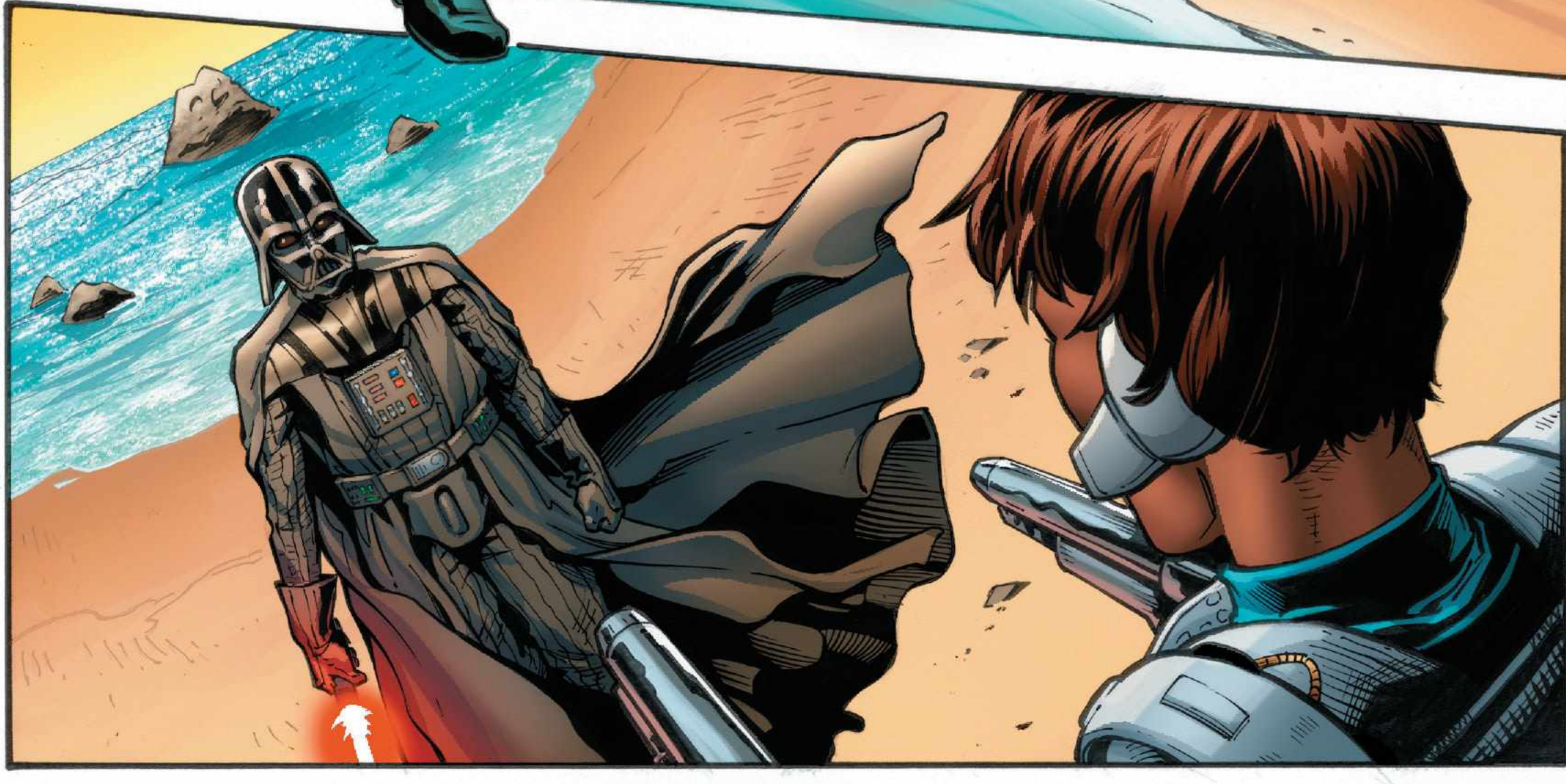
I BECAME SKILLED ENOUGH TO CATCH THE EYE OF EVEN *EMPEROR PALPATINE* AND DID TERRIBLE THINGS IN HIS SERVICE IN THE HOPE OF GETTING CLOSE TO YOU.

I BROUGHT TOGETHER THESE BRAVE WARRIORS, MY ORPHANS, AND ENLISTED THEM TO MY CAUSE.



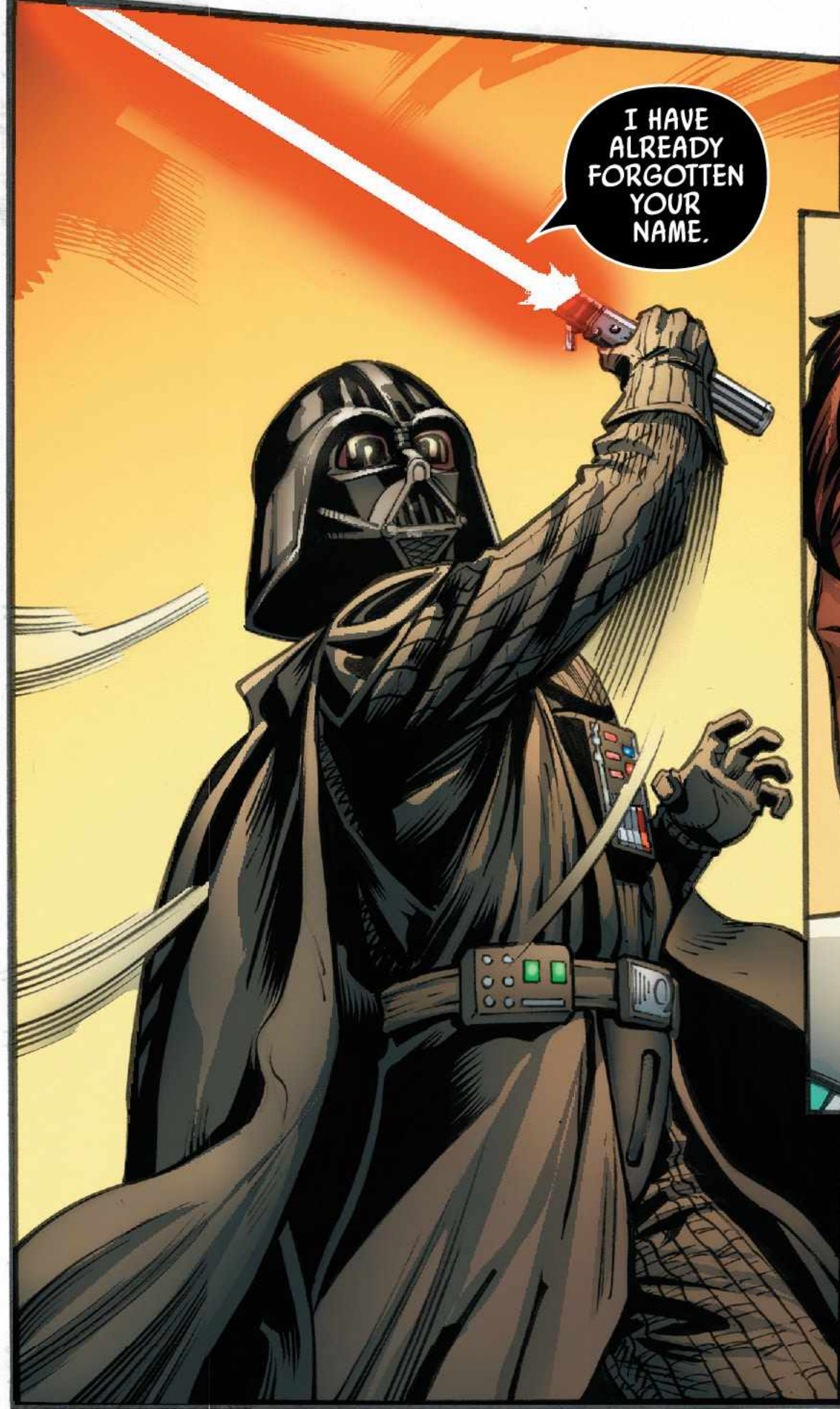
ALL OF THAT FOR THIS MOMENT.

PREPARE YOURSELF, VADER. TODAY, YOU DIE.

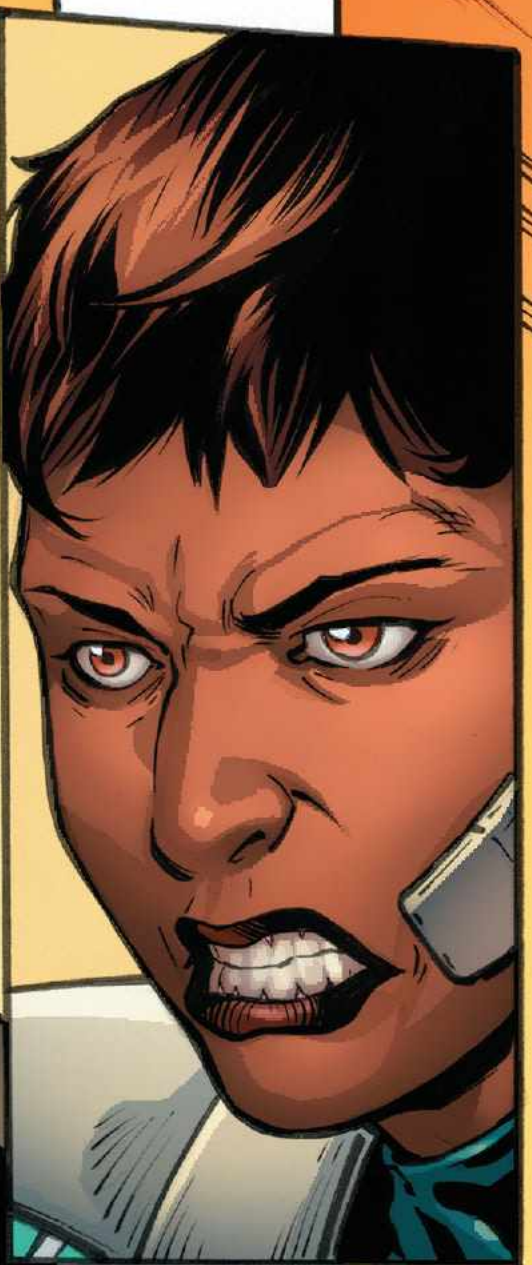


YOU SPENT YOUR LIFE ON A CRUSADE OF WHICH I WAS ENTIRELY UNAWARE, THAT DID NOT AFFECT ME AT ALL.

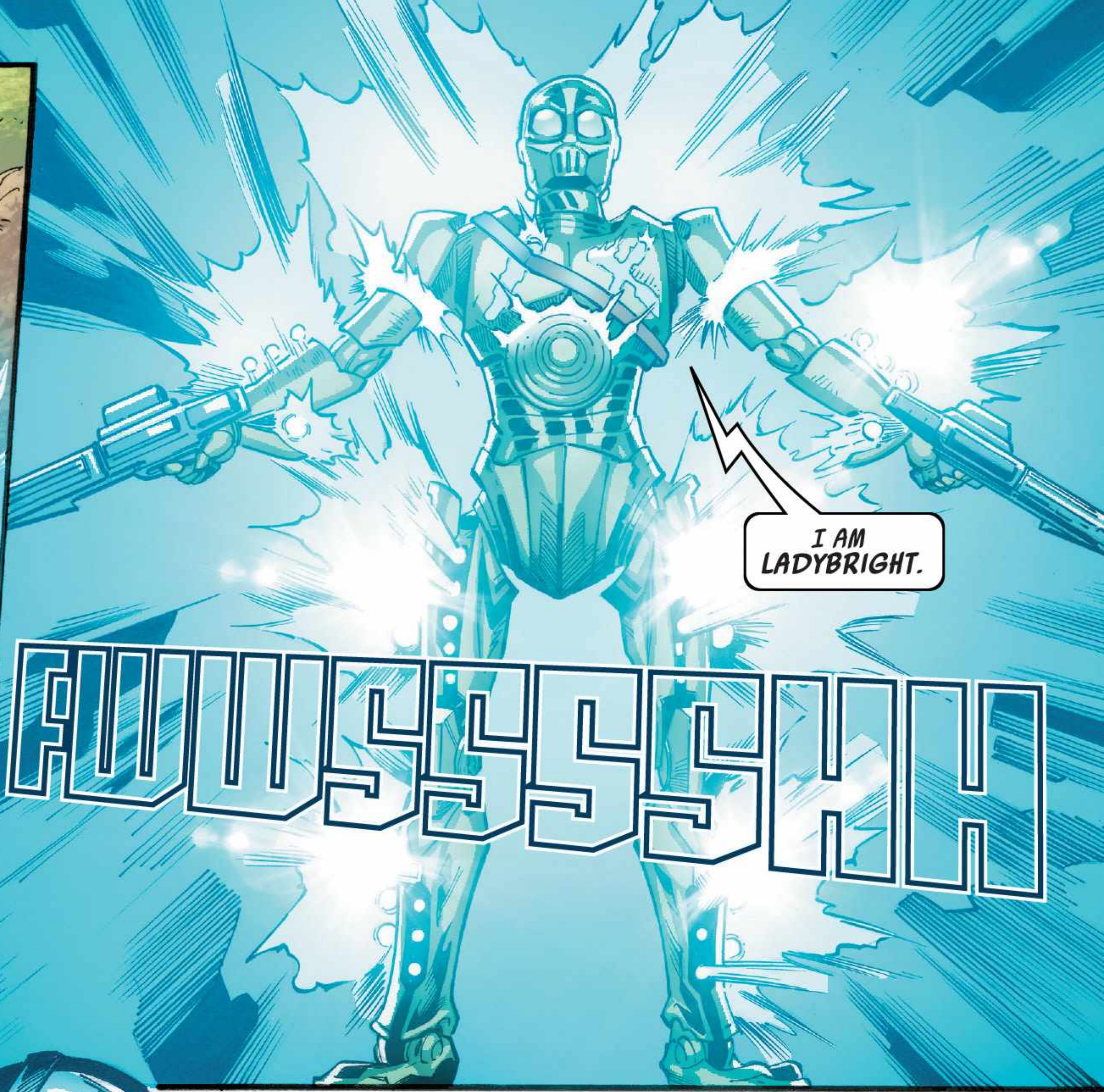
ALL OF THAT TIME...YOU STOPPED *NOTHING* FOR ME. WHILE I PREVENTED YOU FROM DOING *EVERYTHING*.



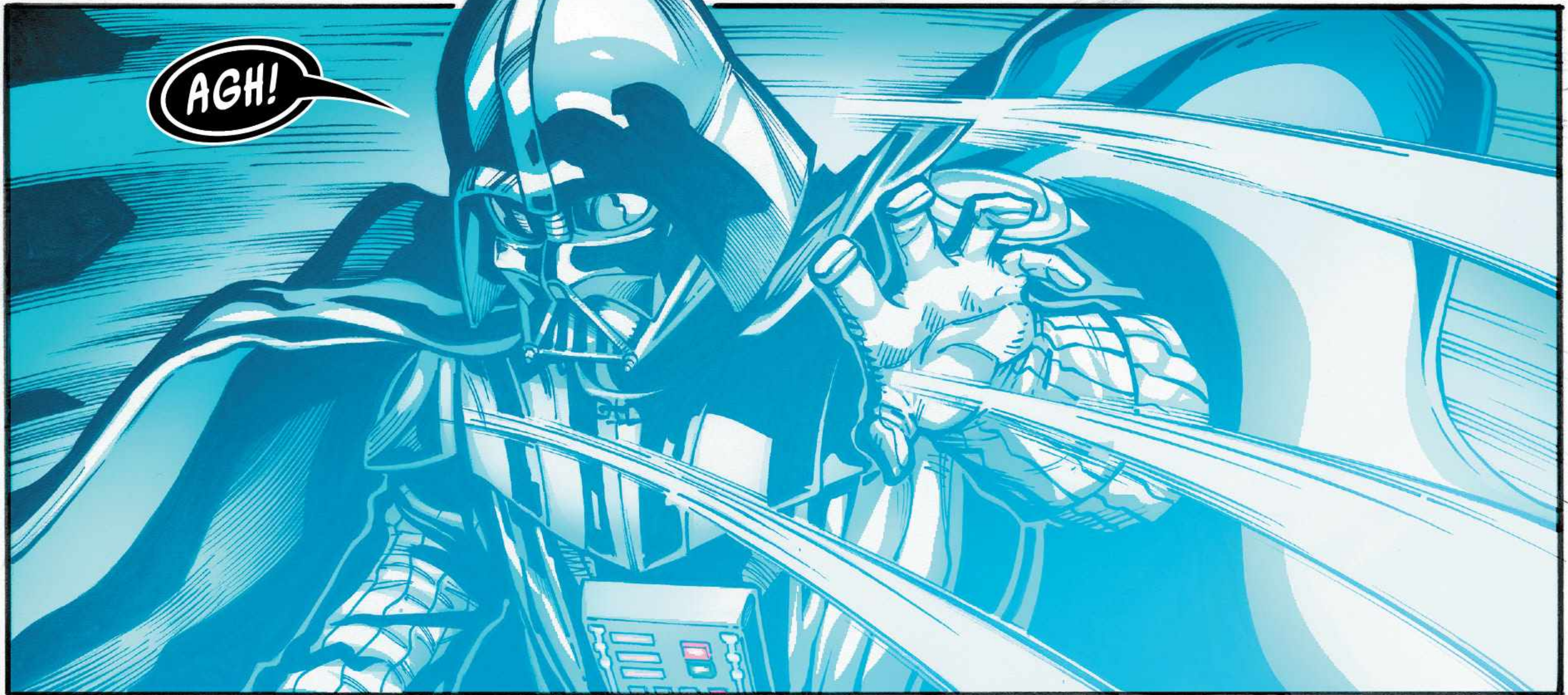
I HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN YOUR NAME.



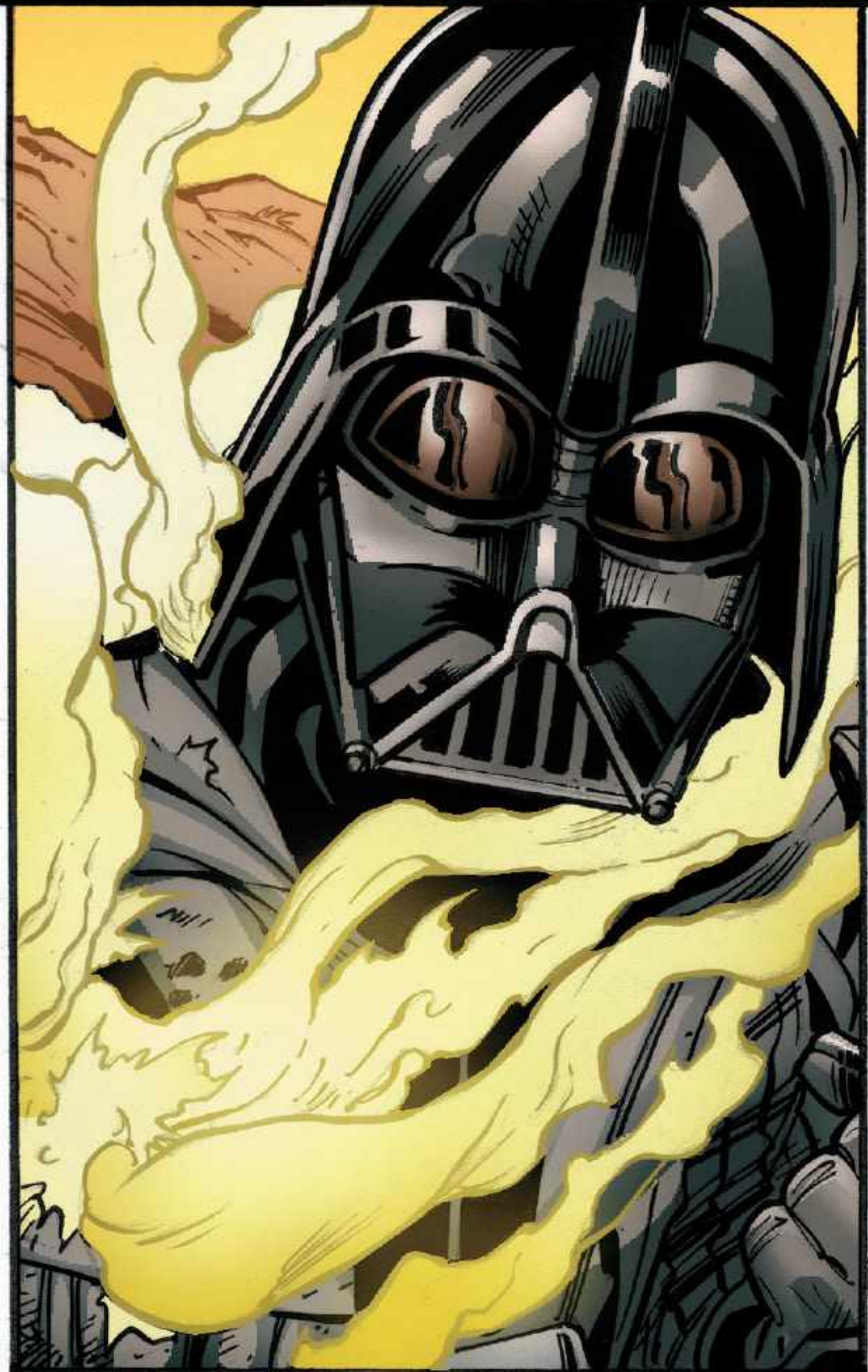
LADYBRIGHT... SAY HELLO.



FWUSSSSSSHHH









DAMMIT. WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO BLAST HIM.

HE WENT OUT INTO THE OCEAN, SEAR. I'VE LOST HIM.

HE'LL BE BACK ONCE HE'S NEUTRALIZED THE ACID, IMARA. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.



WHERE IS YOUR SHIP?

PAST THE DUNES, IN A CLEARING IN THE JUNGLE. A THANK-YOU WOULD BE NICE, ARCHIVIST.

CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE LADY, BUT I AM DEEPLY, TRULY, PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL. MY NAME IS KHO PHON FARRUS, BY THE WAY. HOW DID YOU GET PAST VADER'S STAR DESTROYER?

APPROACHED FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET, STAYED LOW. WE'VE GOT GOOD CLOAKING TOO.



QI'RA SENT US TO GET YOU OFF THIS PLANET. COME ON. WE NEED TO GO.

WAIT. WE HAVE TO BRING THE FERMATA CAGE.

THE WHAT?



SHE MEANS THAT.

OH. GREAT.

LEAVE IT. WE DON'T HAVE TIME.

NO.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NO? YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.

IF YOU WANT TO *STAY* THAT WAY, WE NEED TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE NOW.

IF WE LEAVE WITHOUT THE FERMATA CAGE, WE MIGHT AS WELL LET VADER KILL US.

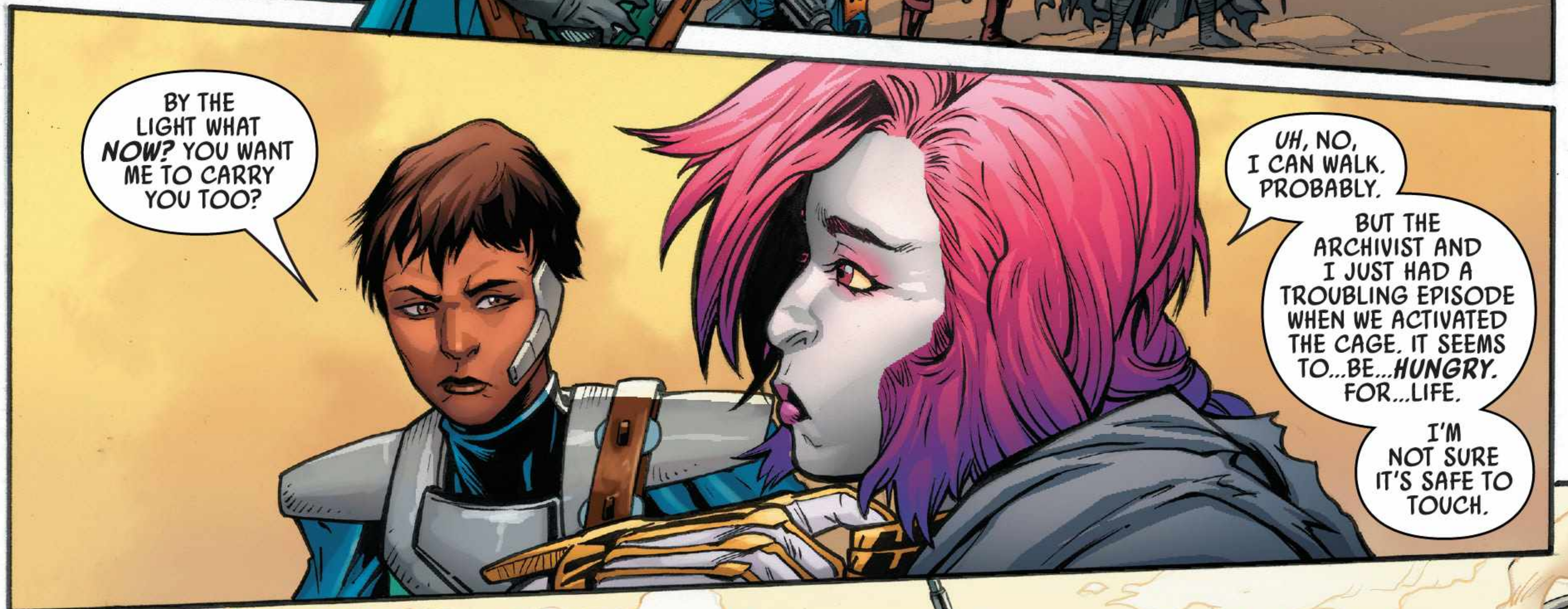
THAT ARTIFACT IS KEY TO QI'RA'S PLAN TO DESTROY THE SITH. WITHOUT IT, WE HAVE NO CHANCE. EVERYTHING WE'VE FOUGHT FOR WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.



FINE. BUT IF WE GET BACK TO QI'RA AND SHE TELLS US ANYTHING OTHER THAN *EXACTLY THAT*, I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF.

SEAR, IMARA, GRAB THE BLASTED THING. LADYBRIGHT AND I WILL COVER THE RETREAT.

UM, ACTUALLY...

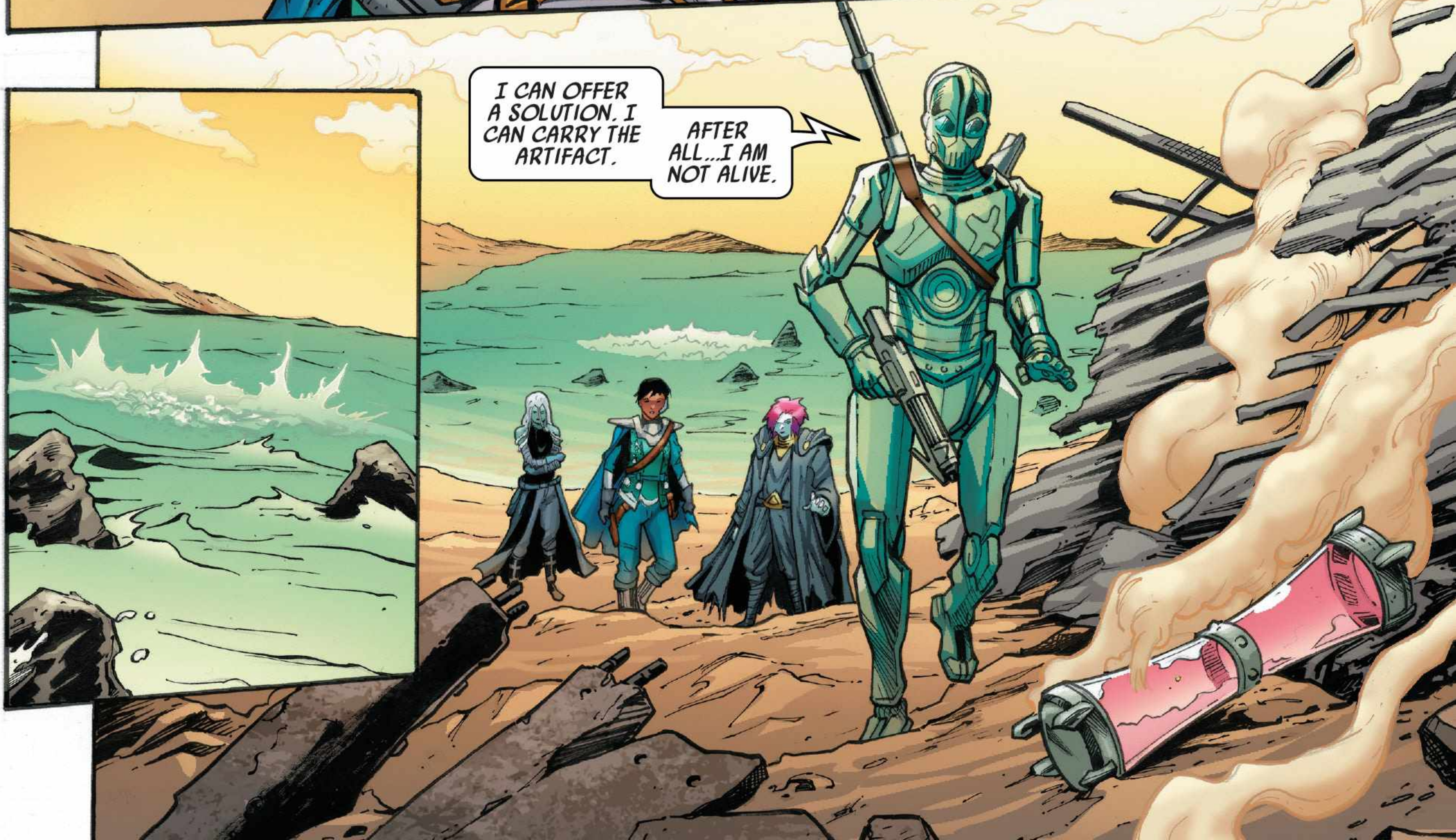


BY THE LIGHT WHAT NOW? YOU WANT ME TO CARRY YOU TOO?

UH, NO, I CAN WALK. PROBABLY.

BUT THE ARCHIVIST AND I JUST HAD A TROUBLING EPISODE WHEN WE ACTIVATED THE CAGE. IT SEEMS TO...BE...HUNGRY. FOR...LIFE.

I'M NOT SURE IT'S SAFE TO TOUCH.



I CAN OFFER A SOLUTION. I CAN CARRY THE ARTIFACT.

AFTER ALL...I AM NOT ALIVE.



NNF. MY
MOTIVATORS
ARE STRAINED...
BUT I CAN
CARRY IT.

I WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO
FIGHT AT THE
SAME TIME.



TIME'S
UP.

IMARA, YOU'RE
WITH LADYBRIGHT
AND THE OTHERS.
SEAR, YOU'RE
WITH ME.



CHANATH...
YOU CAN'T.

DON'T
WORRY, IMARA.
WHAT MATTERS IS
THAT YOU GET
THOSE TWO OUT
OF HERE.

WE'LL TAKE
CARE OF THE
SITH LORD, AND
THEN YOU CAN
SWING BACK
AND PICK
US UP.



I... GOOD
LUCK, YOU TWO.
I'LL HELP IF
I CAN.

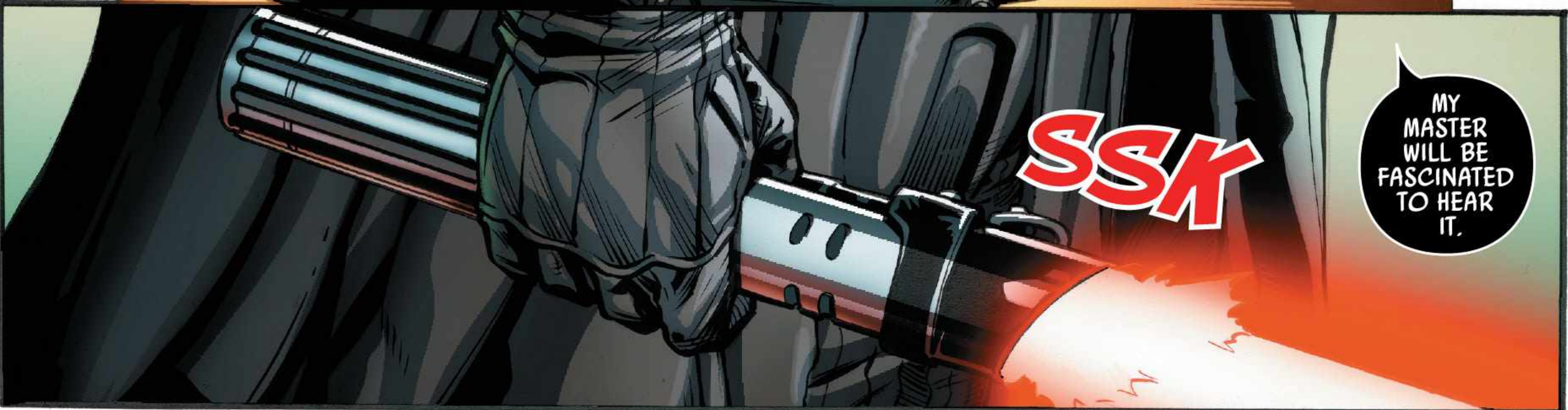
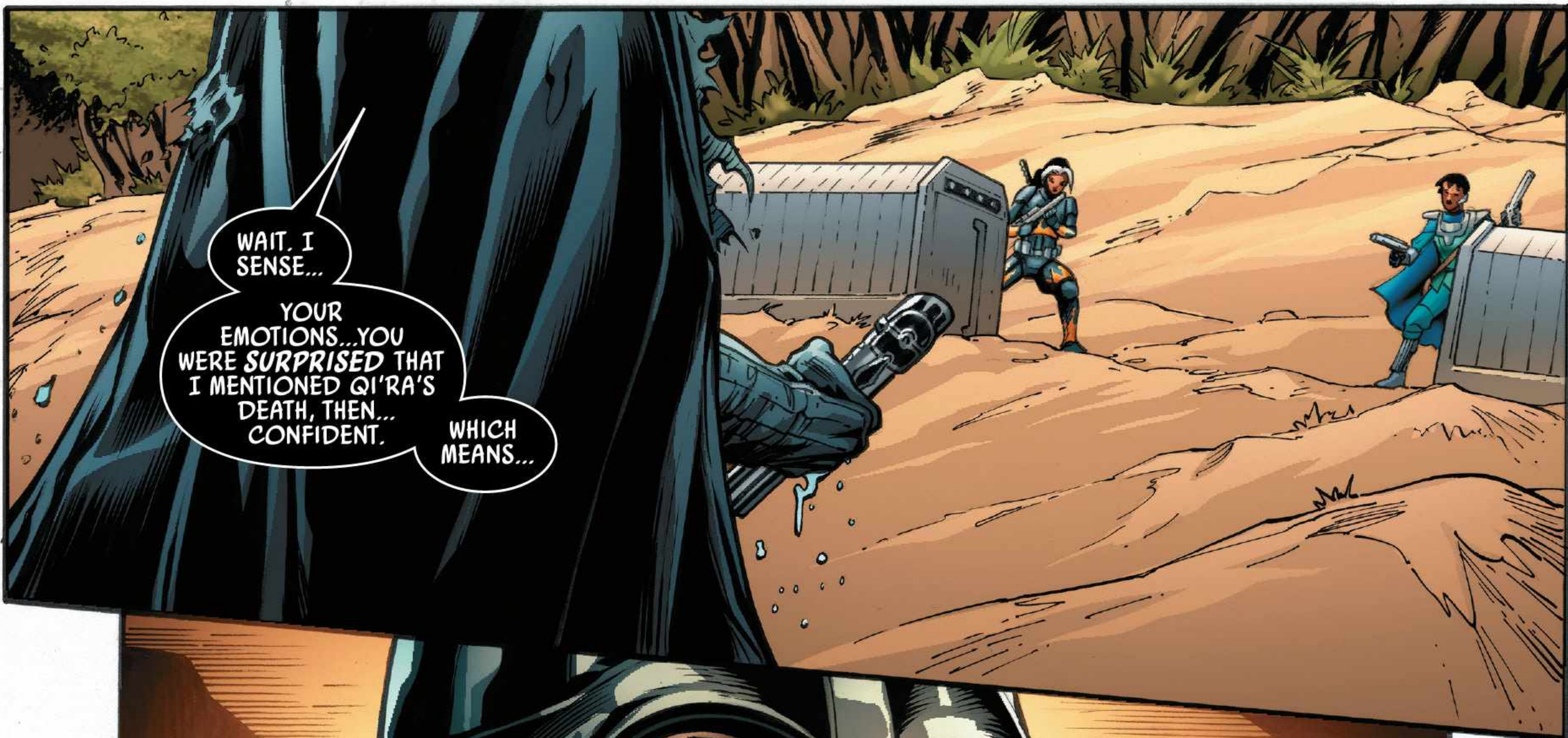
IT'S BEEN...
IT'S BEEN
A RIDE.



IT
REALLY HAS,
CHANATH.

DON'T
TALK LIKE THAT,
SEAR.

I SPENT
MY WHOLE LIFE
TRYING TO FIND
A FAMILY. NOW THAT
I'VE GOT ONE, I'M
NOT GIVING IT UP
THAT EASILY.



The Siroto.

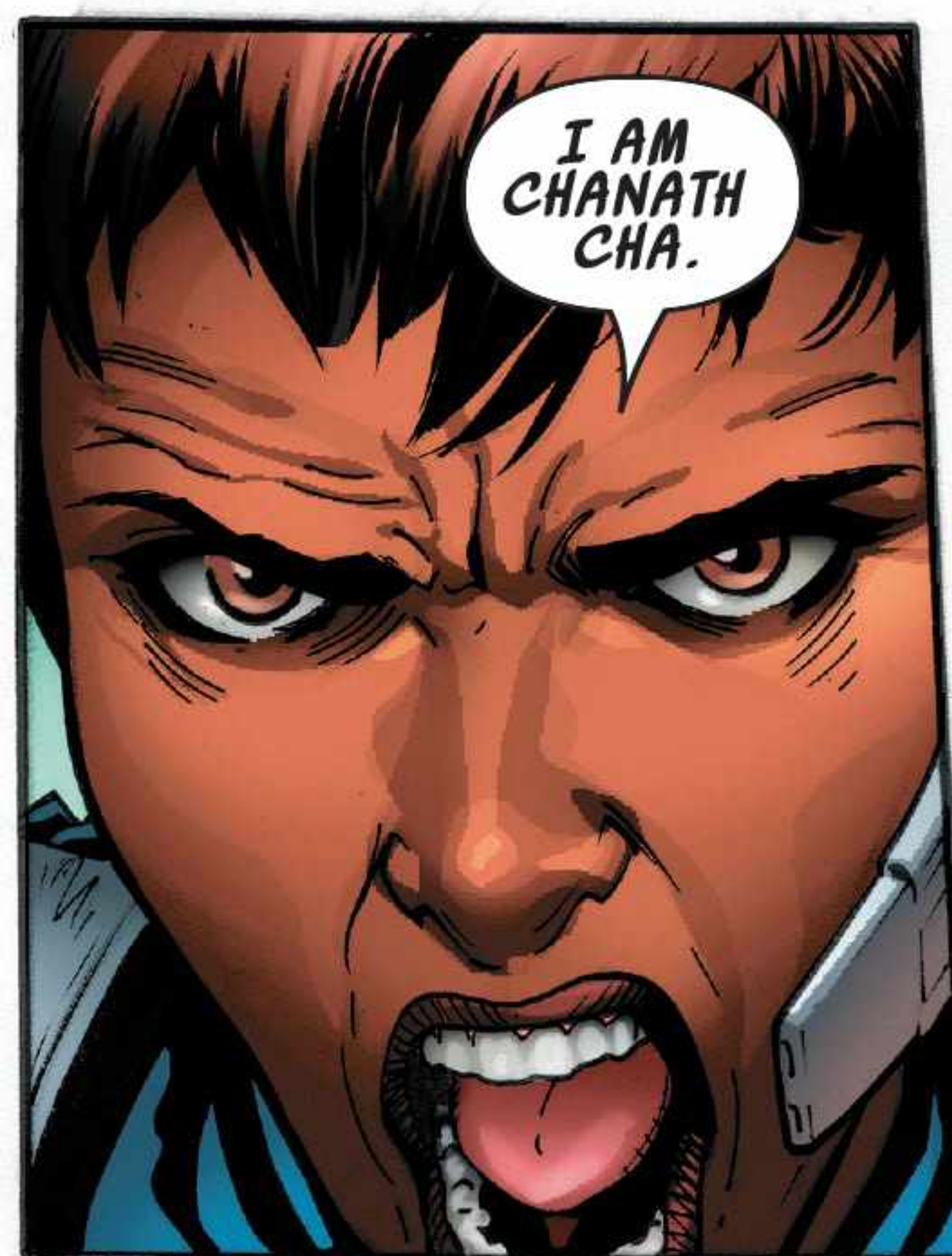
GET US UP,
LADYBRIGHT!

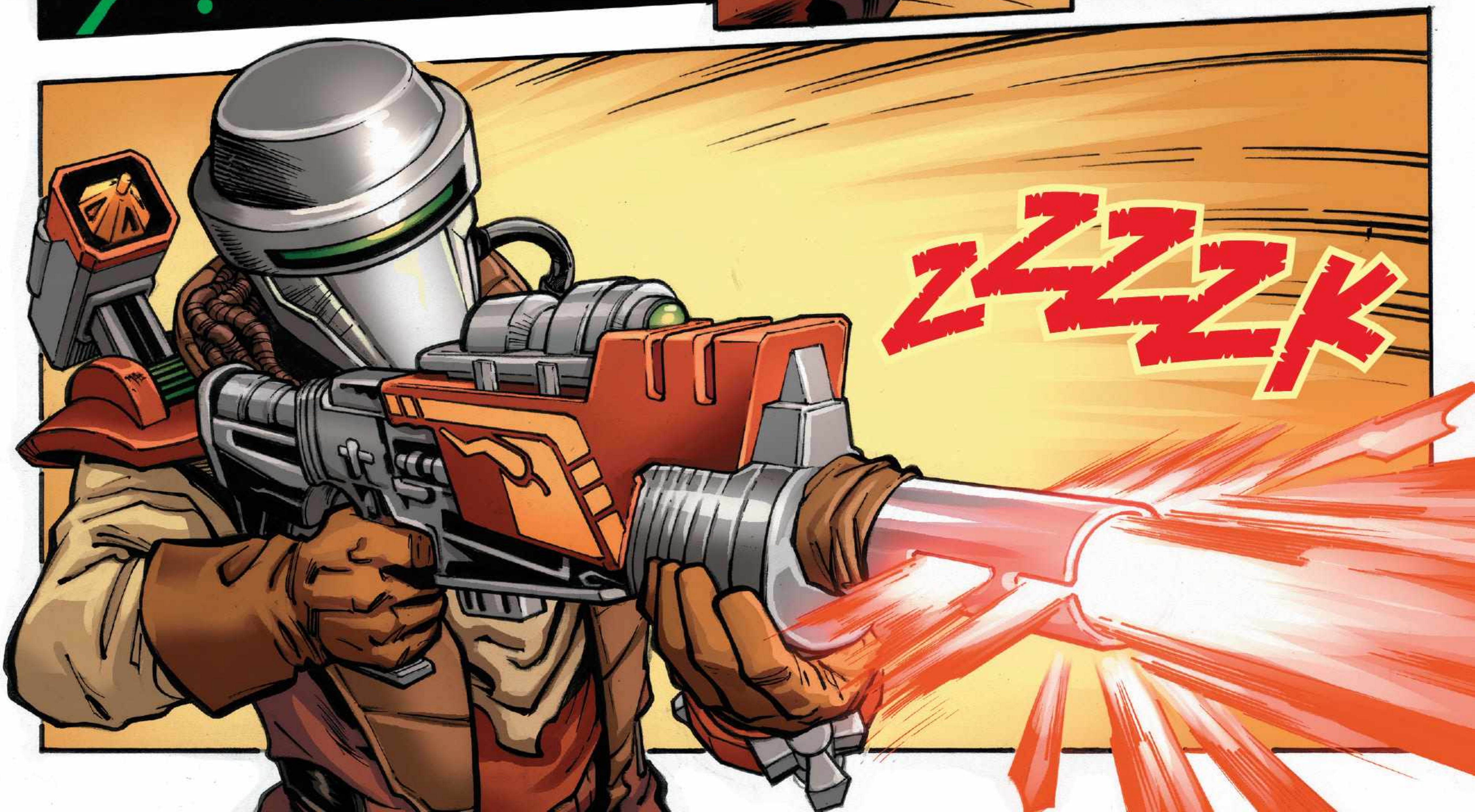
I NEED
ELEVATION.

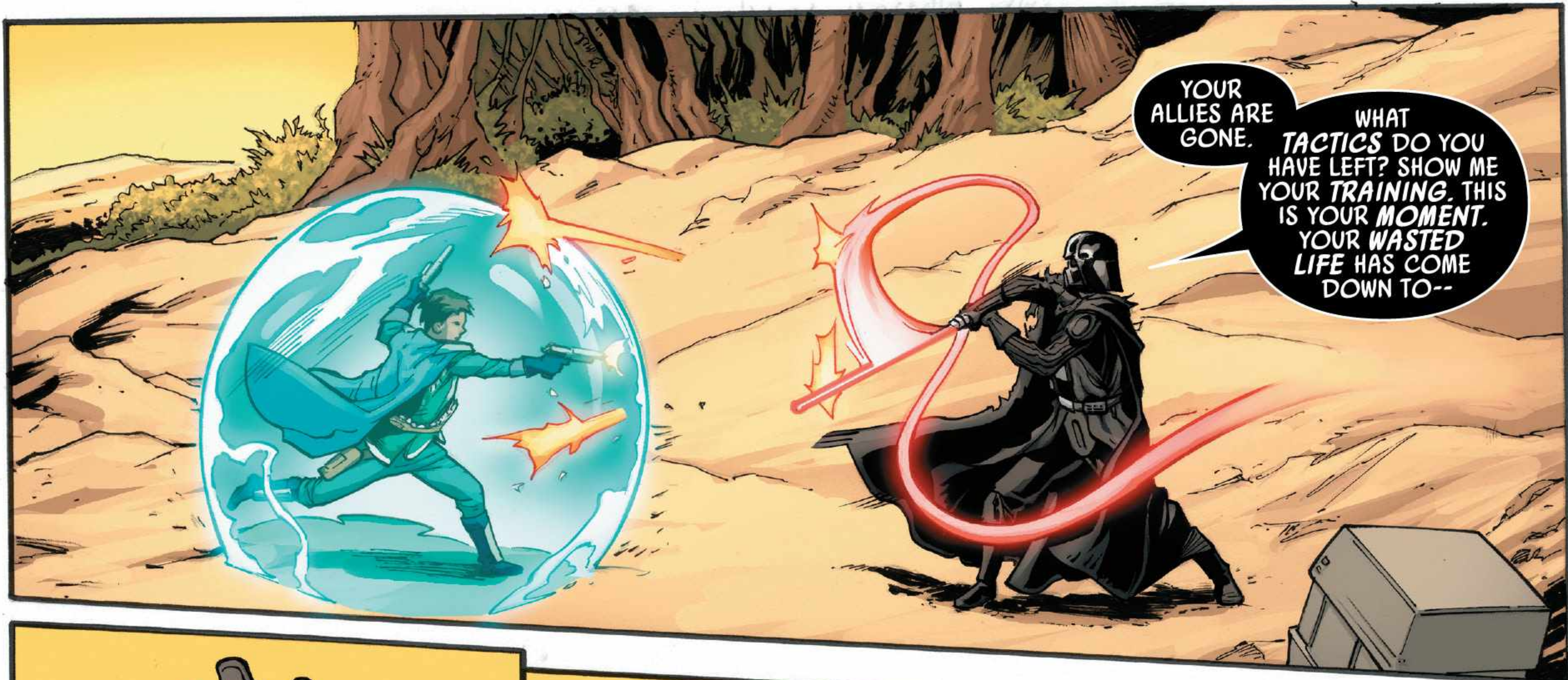
ELEVATING
AS WE SPEAK,
IMARA VEX.

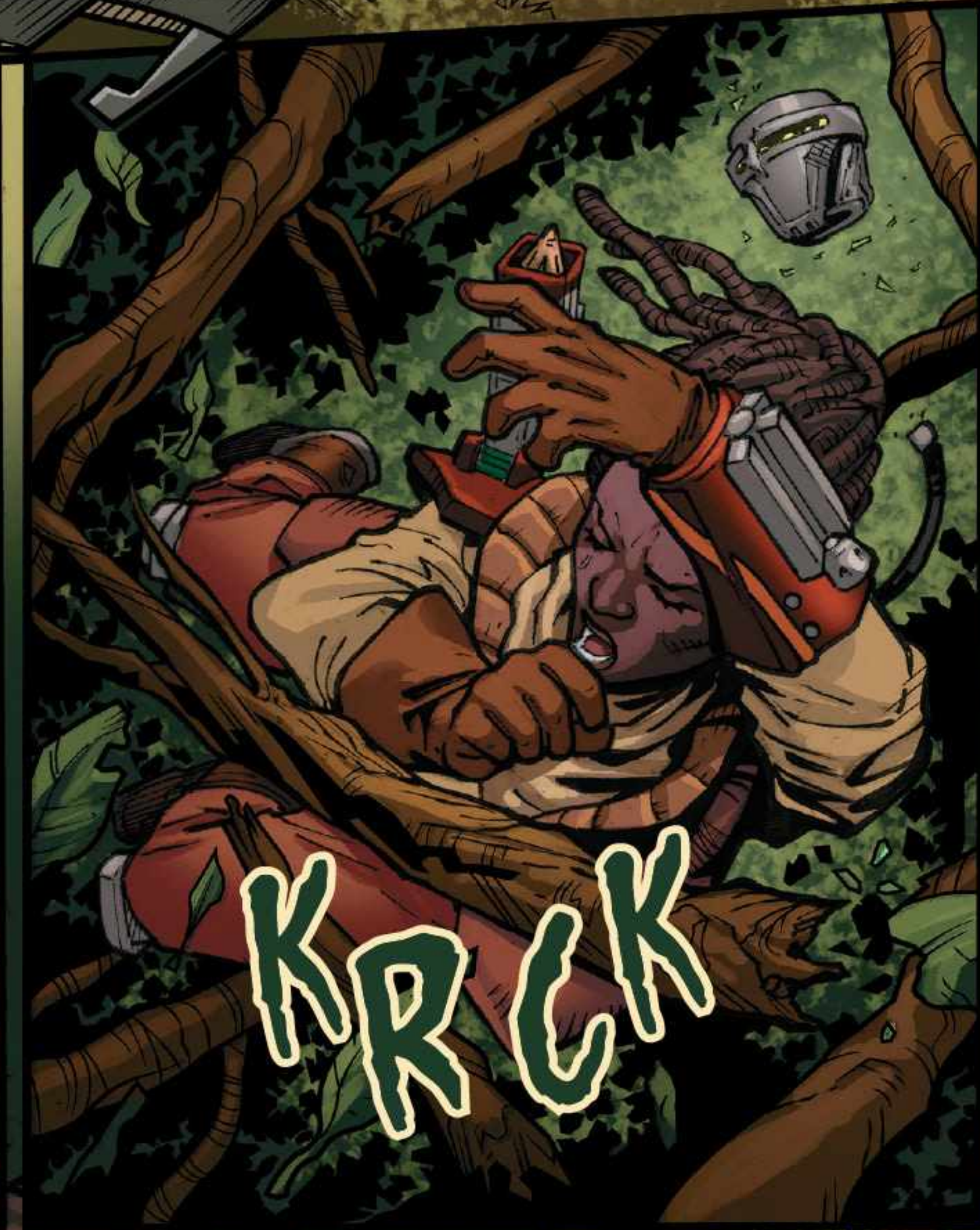
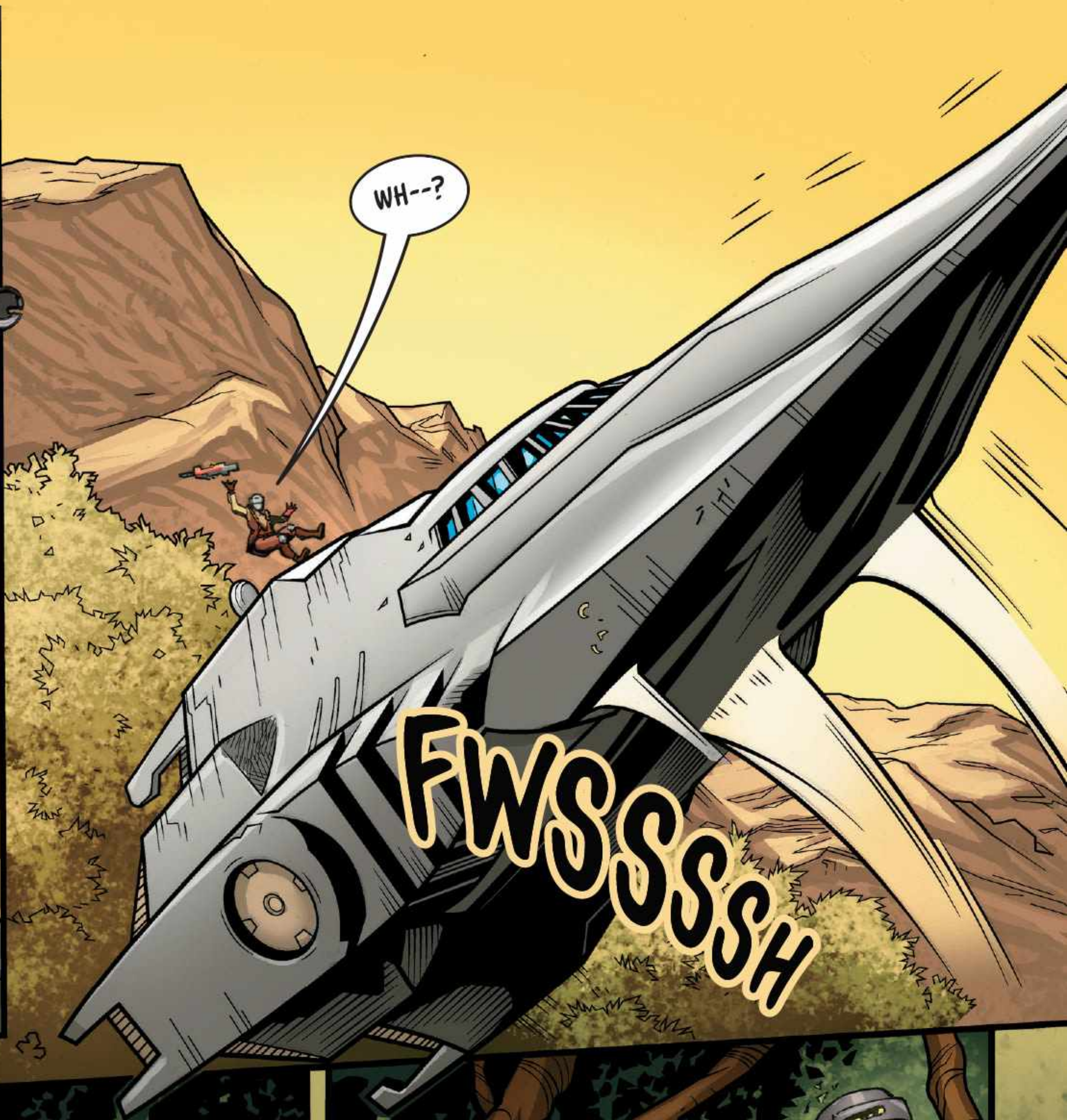
TELL THAT
DROID TO KEEP US
STEADY! YOU DON'T
WANT THIS THING
TO CRACK OPEN,
BELIEVE ME!

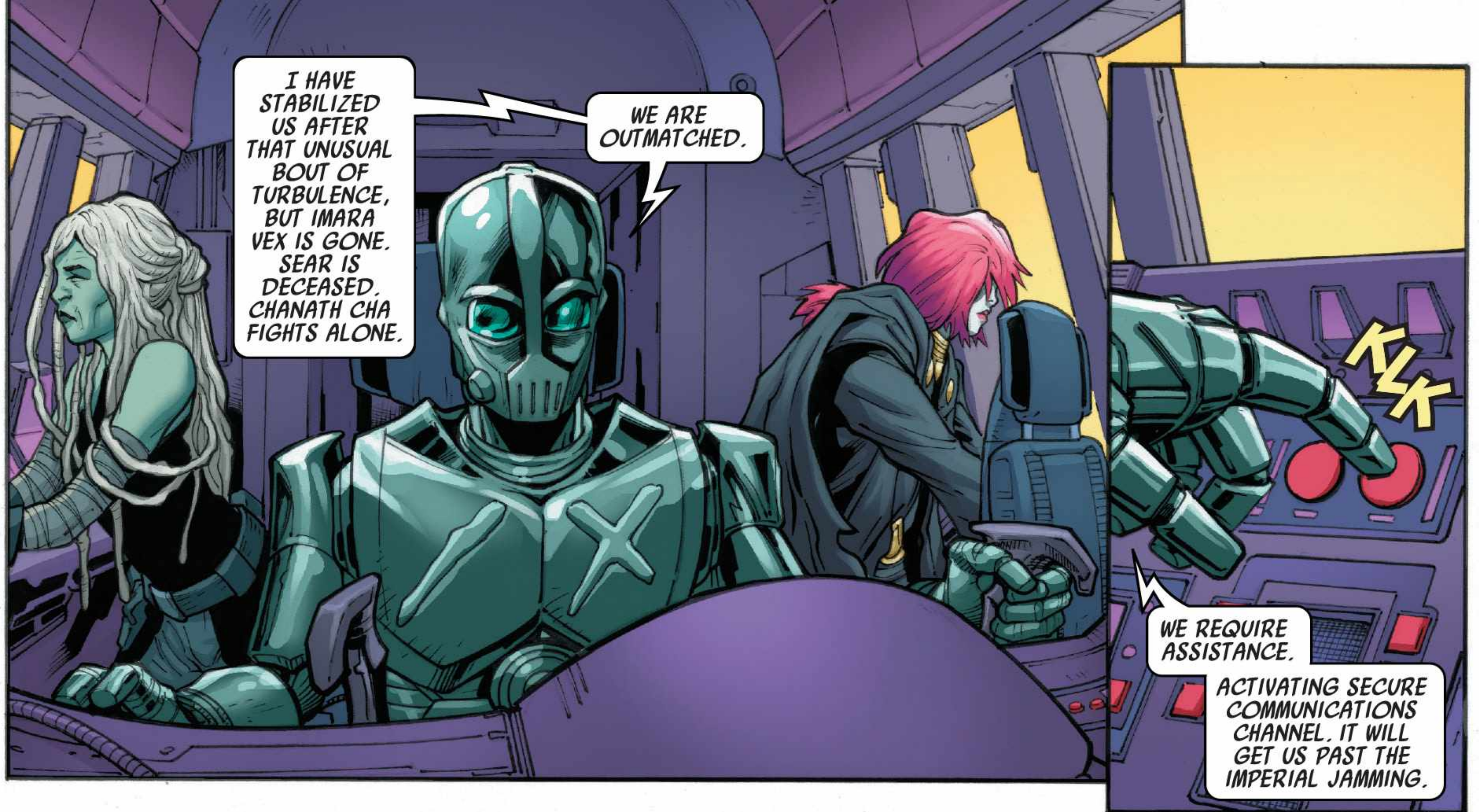
I'LL
CRACK YOU
OPEN...









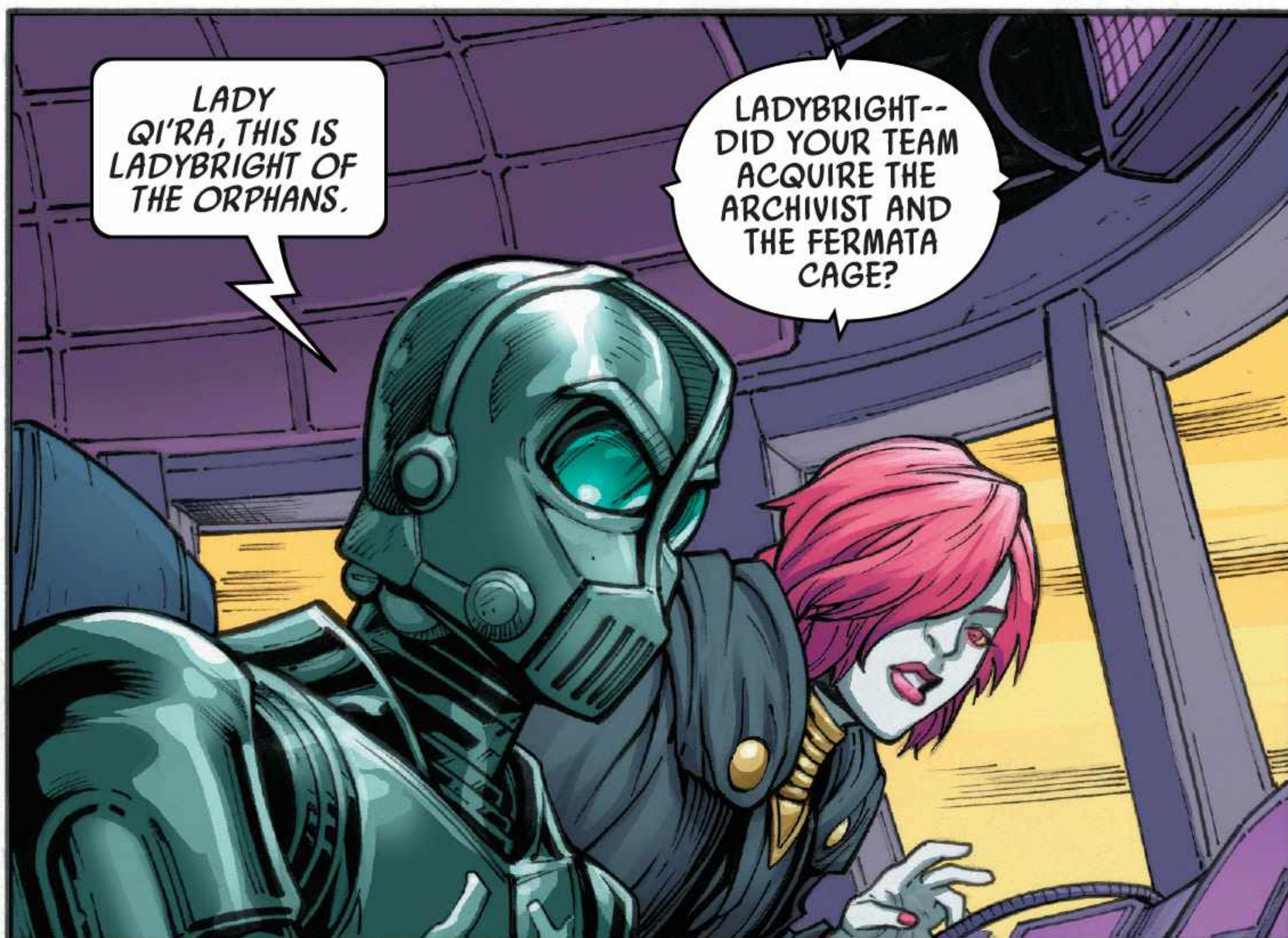


I HAVE STABILIZED US AFTER THAT UNUSUAL BOUT OF TURBULENCE, BUT IMARA VEX IS GONE. SEAR IS DECEASED. CHANATH CHA FIGHTS ALONE.

WE ARE OUTMATCHED.

WE REQUIRE ASSISTANCE.

ACTIVATING SECURE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL. IT WILL GET US PAST THE IMPERIAL JAMMING.



LADY QI'RA, THIS IS LADYBRIGHT OF THE ORPHANS.

LADYBRIGHT-- DID YOUR TEAM ACQUIRE THE ARCHIVIST AND THE FERMATA CAGE?



I'M HERE TOO, YOU KNOW. I EXIST.



ASSETS ARE ACQUIRED, BUT TWO OF OUR TEAM ARE DOWN. CHANATH CHA IS FIGHTING DARTH VADER TO ENABLE OUR ESCAPE.

I WISH TO BRING HER ABOARD THE SIROTO BUT RETURNING TO THE BATTLE RISKS DESTRUCTION AT VADER'S HANDS.

I AM REQUESTING THAT YOU SEND THE DAWN FLEET TO REBALANCE THE EQUATION TO ALLOW US TO RESCUE CHANATH CHA AND ESCAPE SAFELY.

NEGATIVE, LADYBRIGHT.

RETURN TO ME IMMEDIATELY. DO NOTHING ELSE. QI'RA OUT.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? QI'RA TOLD YOU WHAT TO DO! GET US OUT OF HERE!



NEGATIVE.

QI'RA PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT. CHANATH CHA PROVIDES A HOME.

ARE WE...ARE WE GOING BACK?



NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! GO!

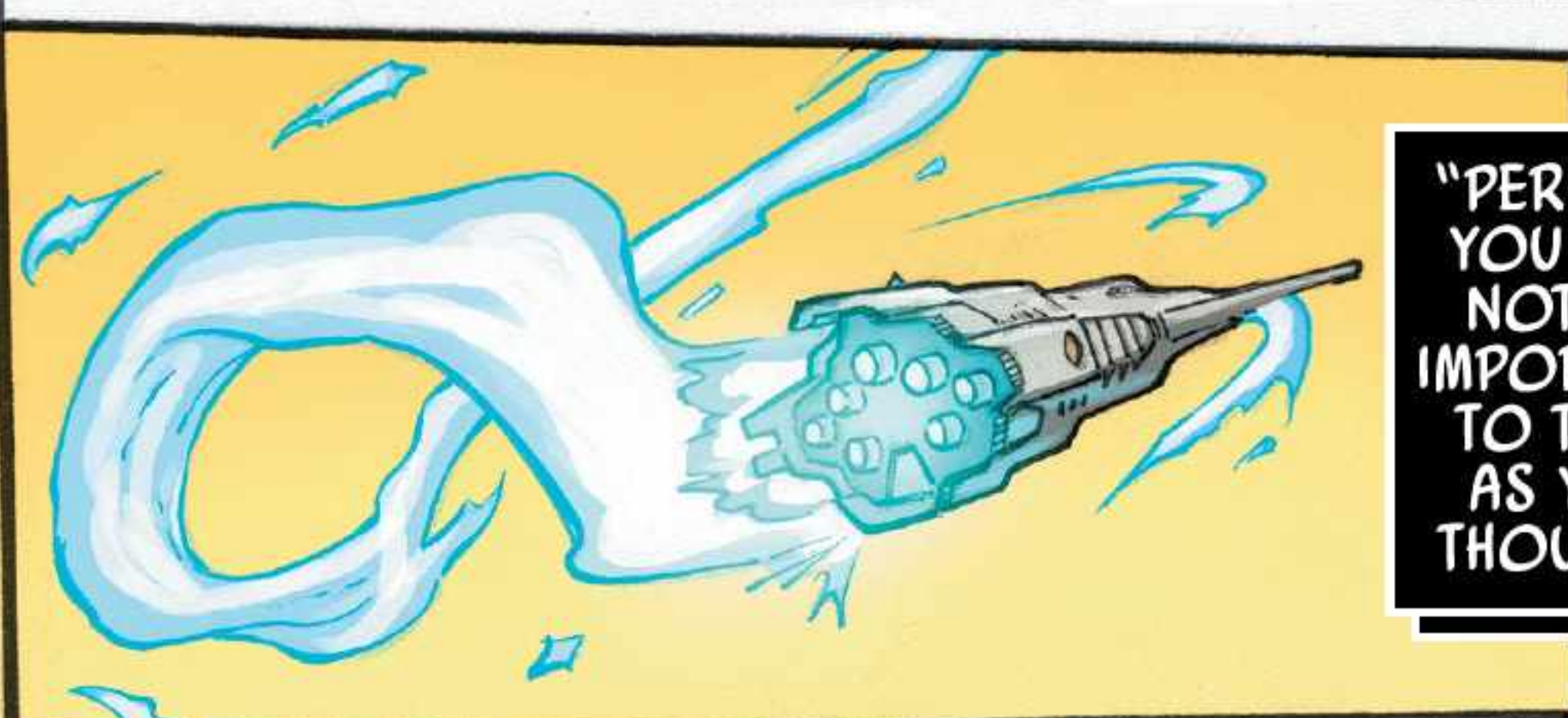
YOUR COMPANIONS RETURN TO SAVE YOU.

MORE WASTED LIVES.

ZZZCKKK



"OR... NO. THEY TURN AWAY.

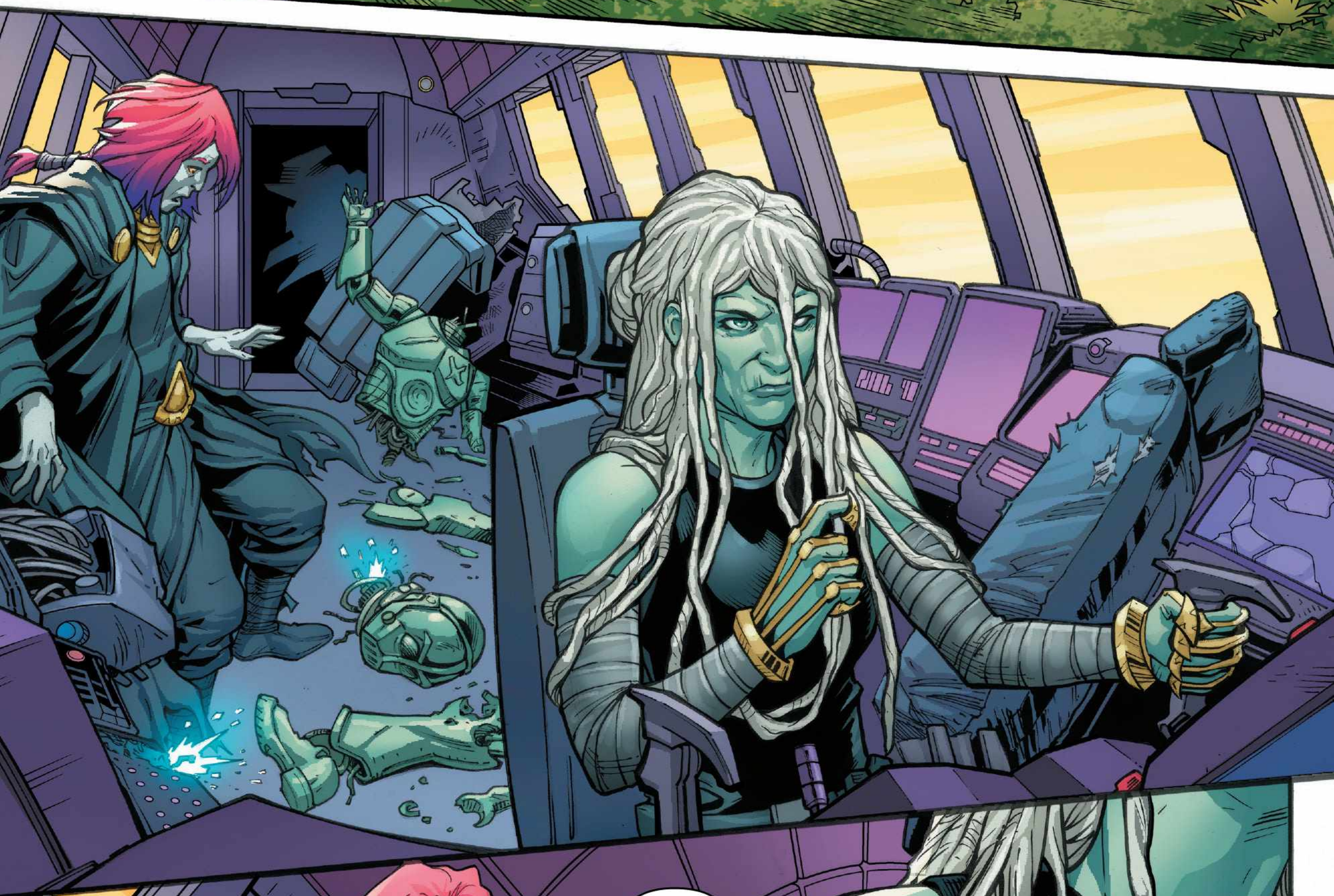
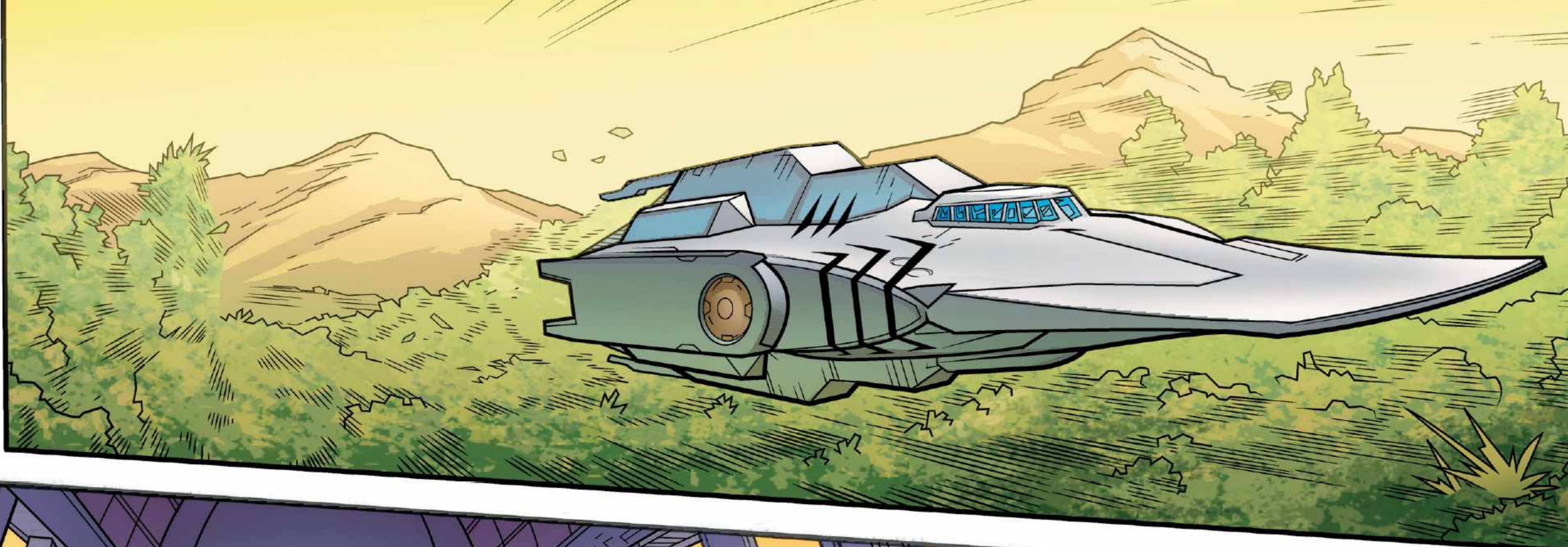


"PERHAPS YOU ARE NOT AS IMPORTANT TO THEM AS YOU THOUGHT."



YES. GOOD.





Dawnfall base.
Secret headquarters
of Crimson Dawn.

CADELIAH, DO
YOU UNDERSTAND
WHY I REFUSED TO
SEND THE DAWN FLEET
TO SAVE CHANATH
CHA?

BECAUSE,
QI'RA, YOU
THINK YOU'LL NEED
YOUR FLEET LATER,
AND YOU DON'T
WANT THE EMPEROR
TO KNOW YOU'VE
GOT ALL THOSE
SHIPS.

THAT'S
CORRECT. VERY
GOOD. MY
ASSETS ARE
DINDLING,
AND I
NEED TO
PROTECT
THEM.

THERE IS
ANOTHER THING I
WOULD LIKE YOU TO
UNDERSTAND.

THIS IS NOT
AS OBVIOUS,
SO I THINK IT'S
WORTH SPELLING
IT OUT.

CHANATH CHA
BELIEVED HER LIFE
WAS A STORY, ONE SHE
WAS WRITING. SHE THOUGHT
SHE KNEW THE ENDING.
SHE WAS WRONG.

HER LIFE
WAS A STORY
BUT NOT THE
ONE SHE
THOUGHT.

AS IT
TURNS
OUT...

...SHE
WAS JUST A
CHARACTER
IN MINE.

To be continued....

NEXT

HIDDEN EMPIRE 4



THE SAGA ALSO
CONTINUES IN...



STAR WARS
SANA STARROS 1



STAR WARS
DARTH VADER 31



STAR WARS
HIDDEN EMPIRE 3



STAR WARS
STAR WARS 31



STAR WARS
BOUNTY HUNTERS 31



STAR WARS
THE
MANDALORIAN 8



STAR WARS
DOCTOR APHRA 29



STAR WARS
YODA 4

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